

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, substituting any amended claim(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):

Claims 1-22. (cancelled)

1 23. (New) A method for managing Walsh Codes in a Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA)
2 cellular wireless communication system, the method comprises:
3 allocating a number of Walsh Codes in the CDMA cellular wireless communication system to a
4 group of cell(s) or sector(s);
5 setting a handoff participation limit to a maximum participation limit, where the handoff
6 participation limit determines a maximum number of cells or sectors that may participate in handoff with
7 any serviced mobile terminal;
8 when an available number of the number of Walsh Codes becomes less than a first Walsh Code
9 availability threshold, reducing the hand handoff participation limit to a first participation limit that is less
10 than the maximum participation limit;
11 when an available number of the number of Walsh Codes becomes less than a second Walsh
12 Code availability threshold, that is less than the first Walsh Code availability threshold, reducing the
13 handoff participation limit to a second participation limit that is less than the first participation limit; and
14 for any mobile terminal participating in handoff with a number of cells or sectors that exceeds the
15 handoff participation limit, terminating forward link transmissions from a corresponding number of
16 servicing cell(s) or sector(s) and releasing a corresponding number of Walsh Code(s).

1 24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein terminating forward link transmissions from a
2 corresponding number of servicing cell(s)/sector(s) and releasing a corresponding number of Walsh
3 Code(s) further comprises:
4 determining a weakest forward link serviced by a weakest cell or sector; and
5 terminating the weakest forward link serviced by the weakest cell or sector.

1 25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the weakest forward link is determined based upon the
2 strength of corresponding pilot signals, as measured and reported by the mobile terminal.

1 26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein a plurality of reports of pilot signal strengths are used in
2 conjunction with averaging operations to determine the weakest forward link.

- 1 27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein terminating forward link transmissions from a
2 corresponding number of servicing cell(s)/sector(s) and releasing a corresponding number of Walsh
3 Code(s) further comprises:
4 terminating a weakest forward link when the mobile terminal is in five-way hand-off; and
5 terminating two weakest forward links when the mobile terminal is in six-way hand-off.

1 28. (New) A base station controller that supports Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) operations
2 for a group of cells or sectors, the base station controller comprises:

3 a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) interface that interfaces the base station controller to a MSC;
4 at least one base station interface that interface the base station controller to a plurality of base stations;
5 and

6 at least one digital processor coupled to the base station interface and to the MSC interface; and
7 a plurality of software instructions that are executed by the processor, the plurality of software
8 instructions include:

9 software instructions that, upon execution by the processor, cause the base station
10 controller to allocate a number of Walsh Codes in the CDMA cellular wireless
11 communication system to the group of cells or sectors;

12 software instructions that, upon execution by the processor, cause the base station
13 controller to set a handoff participation limit to a maximum participation limit, where the
14 handoff participation limit determines a maximum number of cells or sectors that may
15 participate in handoff with any serviced mobile terminal;

16 software instructions that, upon execution by the processor, cause the base station
17 controller to, when an available number of the number of Walsh Codes becomes less than
18 a first Walsh Code availability threshold, reduce the handoff participation limit to a first
19 participation limit that is less than the maximum participation limit;

20 software instructions that, upon execution by the processor, cause the base station
21 controller to, when an available number of the number of Walsh Codes becomes less than
22 a second Walsh Code availability threshold, that is less than the first Walsh Code
23 availability threshold, reduce the handoff participation limit to a second participation
24 limit that is less than the first participation limit; and

25 software instructions that, upon execution by the processor, cause the base station
26 controller to, for any mobile terminal participating in handoff with a number of cells or
27 sectors that exceeds the handoff participation limit, terminate forward link transmissions
28 from a corresponding number of servicing cell(s) or sector(s) and releasing a
29 corresponding number of Walsh Code(s).

- 1 29. (New) The base station controller of claim 28, wherein in terminating forward link transmissions
2 from a corresponding number of servicing cell(s)/sector(s) and releasing a corresponding number of
3 Walsh Code(s), the base station controller determines a respective weakest forward link for the mobile
4 terminal and terminates the respective weakest forward link.
- 1 30. (New) The base station controller of claim 29, wherein the base station controller determines the
2 respective weakest forward link based upon the strength of corresponding pilot signals, as measured and
3 reported by the mobile terminal.
- 1 31. (New) The base station controller of claim 30, wherein a plurality of reports of pilot signal
2 strengths are used in conjunction with averaging operations to determine the weakest forward link.
- 1 32. (New) The base station controller of claim 28, wherein the base station controller operates
2 consistent with at least one of IS-95A, IS-95B, 1xRTT and 1 xEV-DO operating standards.